Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 03555 262143Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 STR-07 SP-02
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 OMB-01
/059 W
----------130327 270743Z /11
R 262105Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8343
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3555

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, EINV, EPAP, EC
SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN COMMERCE MINISTER'S MEETINGS WITH STATE, COMMERCE, AND THE SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

REF: STATE 133175

1. IT APPEARS FROM THE REF REPORT THAT GOE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND INTEGRATION MONTANO WAS BEING LESS THAN CANDID IN SOME OF HIS REMARKS DURING HIS VISIT TO STATE AND USDOC. FOR THE RECORD:

A. CONTRARY TO MONTANO'S ASSERTION THAT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE USG REQUEST AT THE MTN IN GENEVA, EMBOFFS HAVE DISCUSSED THE USG REQUEST WITH HIM ON SEVERAL OCCASION, AND HAVE LEFT PAPERS WITH HIM EXPLAINING THE DETAILS.

B. REGARDING HIS COMMENT THAT THE GOE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF PERMITTING US INVESTORS OR CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS IN ECUADOR TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND THE GOE, MONTANO IS WELL AWARE THAT THE GOE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED TO GRANTING SUCH RIGHT,
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PAGE 02 QUITO 03555 262143Z

AS ARE THE AUTHORITIES OF THE ANDEAN PACT COMMISSION. THIS HAS BEEN THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF THE LONG SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OPIC REPRESENTATIVES, MONTANO AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HERE DURING THE PAST YEAR AND MORE; AND IN THE MOST RECENT DISCUSSION, BETWEEN MONTANO AND EMBOFFS SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, MONTANO MADE PLAIN HE WAS UNWILLING TO DO BATTLE WITH THE GOE FOREIGN MINISTRY

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AND WITH THE ANDEAN PACT COMMISSION IN ORDER TO HAVE THEM
BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO OPIC'S PROPOSALS RE INTERNATIONAL
ARBITRATION.

C. RE USDOC'S OFFER OF TRAINING TO THE GOE IN EXPORT
PROMOTION, AND MONTANO'S EXPRESSION OF A FAVORABLE
RESPONSE TO IT, EMBOFFS PRESENTED THAT SAME OFFER TO
MONTANO WELL OVER A YEAR AGO, AND HAVE REPEATEDLY
REMINDED HIM OF IT, WITHOUT ANY CONCRETE RESPONSE FROM
HIM IN THE FORM OF A NOMINATION OF ONE OR MORE GOE
CANDIDATES FOR SUBJECT TRAINING.

2. THE ABOVE REMARKS ARE NOT INTENDED TO DISPARAGE MONTANO'S
PROBITY. RATHER, WE SUSPECT HE WAS SIMPLY TRYING TO
RESPOND POLITELY RE THESE MATTERS, AND TO AVOID GIVING
OFFENSE TO HIS LISTENERS AT STATE AND USDOC, AND FELT
ESPECIALLY CONSTRAINED TO DO SO BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE
OF THE NUMEROUS OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS INVESTMENT MISSION.
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Sheryl P. Walter
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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